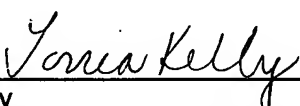


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IFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF: SCARTH, G.B., et al

SERIAL NO: 10/618,582

ART UNIT: 2874

FILING DATE: 15 July 2003

EXAMINER: PAK, Sung H.

Customer No: 29382

Confirmation No: 6889

SUBJECT: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPERATING A PLURALITY OF
ELECTRONIC VARIABLE OPTICAL ATTENUATORS (eVOAs)

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20231, U.S.A.**

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

This is a response to the First Office Action mailed on 7 June 2005. Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed report and request that this application be amended in the following manner:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS begin on page 12 of this paper.

